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NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CIX.

RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

(*London Times*).

The fundamental problem of our age, on its purely political side, is to find a frame-work within which the great and fruitful principle of nationality can continue to serve mankind without threatening by its excesses to disrupt that larger human brotherhood in which alone permanent peace can be realized. The world has before its eyes terrible examples of the evils that come of the excess of nationalism. The teaching that the nation is the source of all morality, its aggrandisement at the expense of others the only duty of the patriot—a monstrous magnification of self-worship—is surely the basest and most brutal of the false religions that have troubled the world. It is the doctrine with which we are at war, the doctrine of HITLER. After this extreme of arrogance and self-seeking has been destroyed, the world will still have to find institutions in which the love of every man for his country can be given free play while being harmonized with the corresponding loyalties of others.

Within the present century the problem has been recognized and its solution attempted. The League of Nations was the first endeavour to solve it on a world-wide scale. The Russians have their highly developed scheme for linking together the manifold races that dwell within the Soviet Union. Enthusiastic theorists are laying plans for international federation, with the constitution of the United States as model; and certain groups of our continental allies are already planning to apply the principle to their mutual relations in the future. The distinctive British contribution exists already in the modern conception of Empire. The word has a history of more than 2,000

years, and has passed through many shades of meaning since the Romans coined it. The British claim to have given it a new significance. Other empires in the past have aimed at enlarging the boundaries within which the relations of men and societies of men are controlled without resort to arms, but it is the aim and practice of the British Empire to found its ultimate unity in freedom alone. That is its essential characteristic.

To-day it has the design, fully realized over a large part of its area and implicit everywhere, of a community of peoples who have been able to supersede force by law between themselves, and at the same time can rely confidently upon one another for support when force is used against them from outside. This result has been achieved precisely because the principle of their association is diametrically opposed to the doctrine of *Lebensraum*. The German complaint that their 85,000,000 have to live in 600,000 square kilometres of Europe, while the 46,000,000 of the English rule a fifth of the earth's surface, is answered by the manifest fact that the British Empire is, and is treated as, the living space of all the hundreds of millions who inhabit it. It is, without need for concealment or excuse, a society for mutual advantage, in which the Mother Country profits as much as any. Britain has provided the model, and carried out most of the political experiments, by which the other members of the Commonwealth have been guided to full nationhood. To-day these self-governing Dominions show that their growth to the full stature of freedom has been wholly unwarped by the Imperial association, since they have used their complete autonomy in order to stand together against the common enemy, even at the terrible risk which at this moment specially confronts Australia and New Zealand. India meanwhile has lately received the latest and most explicit of successive undertakings that the choice of her destiny shall be free and unfettered, and the same liberties and responsibilities are within the grasp of her leaders.

But although mutual advantage is the basis of the imperial partnership, it is not to be sought by any process of isolation or exclusion. It is significant that attempts to propagate the ideal of a self-centred or self-sufficient Empire have invariably failed. They are foreign to its inner nature; inclusiveness, not exclusiveness, is the imperial idea. The true line of development is that of common action between its members, dependent or self-governing, and it can only lead on to a like co-operation with other peoples who wish to found their security upon freedom and to pool their resources for the promotion of both. The future of the Empire is already in some degree mixed up with that of the United States. Their purposes are likely to be increasingly identified, and that may not be the limit of the mixing. The more barriers are broken down and national destinies linked or merged in the world of the future, the more the British Empire will be fulfilling itself.

For the law of the Empire is growth and change. That the spiritual force of the first British Empire has survived the political disruption of the eighteenth century is perceived by all Englishmen and Americans, who understand that their present fight is for the defence of a joint inheritance in freedom, self-government, and the common law. The apparatus of political unity in the second British Empire is becoming more tenuous as the reliance on the intangible bonds becomes more confident. The common allegiance stands fast, and promises to lend its peculiar strength to new world groupings in the future. Change is to be expected still more rapidly in the organization of the colonial Empire, both in those regions which may survive the war inviolate and those which are at present ground beneath the Japanese heel. Mainly in these colonies of the British Empire must be worked out one of the great problems of the twentieth century, that is, the problem of how best the politically advanced nations can assist the less experienced on the path towards full liberty, political and economic. It transcends the boundaries of the British Empire, it invokes the experience of other colonial Powers, and it must occupy international attention after the war. So it was in 1919. But the formula of colonial policy then adopted, under the name of the mandates system, was in the main the development of that principle of trusteeship which had been more and more actively evolved through generations in the British colonies. The idea has since been advanced and generalized by a great English administrator, who has written of the Dual Mandate. Other large and costly developments, with a view to opening to the colonial peoples a fuller share in the common citizenship, have been taken in the British Empire even under the stress of the present war. But a much larger task lies ahead. The war has offered its secular challenge to British colonial policy. It has exposed latent weaknesses or deficiencies, and it brings with it as well the demands of a new age. The system must once again look, as it looked in an earlier day of adversity, for new life and strength in a ruthlessly realistic acceptance of its lessons.

Thus as another Empire Day has passed, after a year in which the Empire has suffered and withstood almost unprecedented losses, the retrospect and the prospect are more than ever a call to pride and resolution. The sense of a mission which has informed all that has been best in the Imperial effort is founded upon a training and experience described by an acute American observer as "the result of a long history of world responsibility." That sense persists, justified and undimmed, and has its own great contribution to make to the world of to-morrow.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

14—8—42 to 21—8—42.

Russia.—The main sectors continue to be the Don Elbow, SOUTH KUBAN and the CAUCASUS.

After their initial failure, the Germans, in a fresh attempt, have driven a wedge near KELSKAYA and reached the west bank of the river, within about 40 miles of STALINGRAD.

At KOTELNIKOVO where the lower claw of the German pincer on STALINGRAD rests, the enemy has been held.

Below KOTELNIKOVO where, as reported last week, a new threat has developed, the twin object is to take STALINGRAD in the rear and reach ASTRAKHAN also.

In the CAUCASUS, at the Black Sea end of the range, the Germans have crossed the KUBAN and taken MAIKOP and KRASNODAR. They have also reached MINERALNIE VODI, about a hundred and fifty miles from GROZNY. MINERALNIE VODI, as the name implies is a spa, lying half-way between the Black Sea and the Caspian. Near it is ELBURZ, the highest peak of the CAUCASUS. It remains to be seen whether Von Bock will attempt to scale the passes at ELBURZ or take the CAUCASUS at the Black Sea end.

In other sectors, that is at RJEV, LENINGRAD, BRIANSK and VORONEJ, Russian resistance keeps the enemy at bay.

One submarine in the Gulf of Finland, 3 transports of 28,000 tons in the Barents Sea and 5 more transports of 27,000 tons in the Baltic Sea were sunk.

The Germans have completly wiped out the Russian villages of SEMENOVO, ZUYEVO and ZHARKI in reprisal.

Egypt.—Positional warfare continues. The R. A. F. attacked CALLATO on RHODES ISLAND, and shipping at TOBRUK and SOLLUM. The U. S Army Air Force raided NAVARINO Harbour in GREECE. 5 lighters were sunk and some more lighters were damaged off the African coast.

General Alexander has succeeded General Auchinleck in the command of the MIDDLE EAST. Lieut. General Montgomery has succeeded General Ritchie in the command of the Eighth Army.

Air Raids over Western EUROPE are incessant. The R. A. F. now carries on its operations in conjunction with the U. S. Army Air Force. The RHINELAND was raided during the week, with AACHEN, centre of the German coal industry as the main objective.

Railway blitz or train wrecking is becoming a favourite pastime of the R. A F. Since April 30 special train-wrecking squads of spitfires and hurricanes are flying over Hitler's FRANCE, HOLLAND and BELGIUM day and night, dropping shells into railway engines and boilers. One of their tricks is to attack the engines as they emerge from a tunnel. One night a single fighter squadron wrecked as many as 23 trains on the Nord railway system.

Dieppe.—The raid on DIEPPE on the 19th was a combined daylight operation which lasted nearly 9 hours after landing.

China.—The Japanese forces at SHANGJAO in EASTERN KIANGSI launched a drive towards HENGFENG where the Chinese have cut the CHEKIANG-KIANGSI railway.

Another Japanese force at SUNGYANG in Eastern CHEKIANG is converging on SUICHANG where heavy fighting is in progress.

The Japanese are also advancing from TUNGSIANG towards LINCHWAN, where fighting is in progress near HUWAN. American bombers attacked YUCHOW in North-east HUNAN. In INDO-CHINA the Chinese raided HAIPONG and HANOI.

The Pacific.—1. *The Solomons.* American marines are consolidating their gains in three islands which total about 5,000 sq. miles. Of these TULAGI is probably one. Some of the islands are now completely occupied. A Japanese aerodrome has also been captured. The battle in the area will continue to be a see-saw inter-island struggle and the latest news is that it is 'going well' for the Allies.

2. *New Guinea.* Here Japanese reinforcements brought up to KOKODA were held and a Japanese convoy was attacked.

3. *The Aleutians*—In last Saturday's attack on KISKA by the American Task Force a destroyer was set on fire; a cargo vessel was sunk and two more vessels were damaged.

The Mediterranean.—The biggest event of the week was the safe passage of a convoy to MALTA through the 'Bomb Alley'. Packs of U-boats and dive-bombing aircraft attacked the convoy. But a force

of Italian Cruisers concentrated in the Tyrrhenian Sea for a joint attack never came with in the range of British Warships. One U-boat was sunk and another was damaged. The British losses were the aircraft-carrier *Eagle* and the cruiser *Manchester*.

Miscellaneous.—1. Captain Oliver Lyttleton, Minister of Production stated on August 14, 'The position at sea was not wholly bad. Allied shipping losses had decreased in July and the toll of U-boats in the last two or three weeks had been well above the average'.

2. Exchange of goods between U. S. and French North-AFRICA, which had been suspended since Laval came into power has been resumed.

3. 300 Frenchmen have escaped from the Vichy Island of MARTINIQUE to join the fighting French.

4. 70,000 Jews are reported to have been slaughtered at MINSK. Mr. Sol Broom, Chairman of the House of Representatives, Foreign Affairs Committee, said, referring to the event, 'the massacre was beyond all human conception—inconceivable that people calling themselves human beings could resort to such barbarism.'

5. The Portuguese Government have placed the AZORES and MADEIRA under military control.

6. Mr. Churchill met M. Stalin at Moscow by invitation. A conference of some 20 delegates, including, among others, Wavell, Voroshilov and Averell Harriman ('Lease/Lend Expert') ensued and lasted from Wednesday to Saturday. It is revealed that military and strategic questions were discussed, including a 'Second Front' and 'Global strategy'.

Great and important decisions were reached. BRITAIN and RUSSIA have agreed, 'whatever suffering and difficulties lay ahead' to continue to work hand in hand till the complete destruction of Hitlerism was achieved.' It is now revealed that before leaving for Moscow Mr. Churchill consulted the Dominions Ministers and also met at CAIRO General Smuts, General de Gaulle, Sir Sikander Hyat Khan and the Egyptian Prime Minister.

7. Axis submarines have sunk 5 Brazilian ships. President Vargas has threatened to seize Axis ships in compensation.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
10—8—42 (Monday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
	No information available.			
	LIBYA. (By British planes).			
	TOBRUK.			
	Transport vehicles and encampments in the battle area.			
	Enemy shipping off the North AFRICAN coast.	One ligter.		
	RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole battle area.			
	FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
	Buildings and motor lorries near KALEWA.			
	20 covered boats in MYITTHA river.			
	CHINA. (By American and British planes).			
	HANKOW.			
	TIMOR. (By American and British planes).			
	Jap vessels off TIMOR.	2 ships sunk.		
	GREECE. (By British planes).			
	Italian cruisers at NAVARINO harbour.	3 cruisers hit.		
11—8—42 (Tuesday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
	DAY:—			
	Offensive patrol over occupied FRANCE.		1 plane.	
	NIGHT:—			
	MAINZ (an important centre of industry and railway and river communication in the RHINELAND).	Big fires started.		
	Objectives in COBLENZ docks.			
	Docks at LE HAVRE			
	Airfields in the LOW COUNTRIES.		16 bombers.	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
	LIBYA. (By British planes).			
	SIDI BARRANI.			
	Landing grounds in the DABA area.			
	Enemy tanks and armoured vehicles in the battle area.			
	RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
	Air combats over the whole battle area.			
	FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
	Rivercraft in the vicinity of TOUNGOO.			
	Buildings at the junction of the WAYR and MYITTHA Rivers.		No loss.	
	CHINA. (By American and British planes.)			
	YOCHOW.			
	The airfield at NANCHANG.			2 planes.
	NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
	Japanese shipping at RABAUL.			
	Reconnaissance over enemy-occupied places.			
12—8—42 (Wednesday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
	The industrial centre of MAINZ (RHINELAND.)			
	Airfields in the LOW COUNTRIES.			
	Laying mines in enemy waters.		5 planes.	
	LIBYA. (By British planes).			
	The harbour installations, shipping and buildings in TOBRUK.			
	Military objectives at SOLLUM.			
	Military objectives in the battle area.			
	RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
	Air combats in the entire battle front.			
	FAR EAST.			
	No information **available** about any Allied air operations.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
13—8—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
Laying mines in enemy waters.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Tanks and concentration of motor vehicles in the EL ALAMEIN area.			
Barges off SIDI BARRANI.			
Reconnaissance over the battle area.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the entire Eastern Front.			
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy warships and transports in the NEW GUINEA area.		No loss.	4 planes.
Reconnaissance over North-Western sector.			
NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
A Japanese convoy off RABAUL.			
14—8—42 (Friday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Enemy barges moving along the coast.	5 barges sunk.		
Enemy camps, transports and gun positions and landing grounds in the EL DABA and FUKA areas.			
RHODES. (By British planes).			
Enemy aerodromes in RHODES.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats along the whole front.			

Date Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
FAR EAST—TIMOR. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy shipping off TIMOR.			
NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy warships and transports in the NEW GUINEA area.			
S. W. PACIFIC. (By American and British planes).			
Reconnaissance over the enemy-occupied territories.			
15—8—42 (Saturday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
Military and Industrial objectives in Western GERMANY.			
Laying mines in enemy waters.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Enemy lighters off MERSA MATRUH.	3 lighters sunk.		
TOBRUK.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Eastern Front.	For the week Aug. 8th to Aug. 15th.	249 planes.	369 planes.
FAR EAST—TIMOR. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy bases in TIMOR.			
NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Reconnaissance over LAE and SALAMAUA.			
NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy shipping escorted by naval vessels off NEW BRITAIN.			

16—8—42. (Sunday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).

DAY:—

Railway communications in occupied FRANCE.
Goods trains near OUISTREHAM. } No loss.

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy waters.

LIBYA (By British planes).

Enemy barges off the AFRICAN coast.
Enemy tanks, armoured cars and other vehicles in the EL ALEMEIN area.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire front.

FAR EAST—TIMOR. (By American and British planes).

A town on the South-East coast of TIMOR.

NEW GUINEA and NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).

Harbours and aerodromes in both the areas.

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories.

Date. | Targets. | Damage caused by air bombardment. | Aircraft losses for Enemies | Allies

11—8—42 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN. (By German planes).

DAY:—

A town in South ENGLAND and another in the South-East coast.

NIGHT:—

A place in South-east ENGLAND.

MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).

MALTA. 3 planes.

12—8—42 (Wednesday)

BRITAIN. (By German planes).

DAY:—

North-East and South-West coasts of ENGLAND.

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories—*cont.*

Date. | Targets. | Damage caused by air bombardment. | Aircraft losses for Enemies | Allies

NIGHT:—

Two points in South-West SCOTLAND.

MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).

MALTA.

RUSSIA. (By German planes).

STALINGRAD.

13—8—42 (Thursday).

BRITAIN. (By German planes).

No information available.

MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).

MALTA.

RUSSIA. (By German planes).

Russian towns behind the Russian army.

14—8—42 (Friday).

BRITAIN. (By German planes).

NIGHT:—

Points in East ANGLIA; THAMES ESTUARY.

MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).

MALTA.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

15—8—42 (Saturday).

BRITAIN. (By German planes).

DAY:—

A town on the South-East coast.

NIGHT:—

A town in EAST ANGLIA.

MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).

MALTA. 3 planes.

RUSSIA. (By German planes).

STALINGRAD.

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
16—8—42 (Sunday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—				
	Coastal areas of EAST ANGLIA and North-East ENGLAND.	Very slight damage.		
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
	MALTA			
	EGYPT. (By German planes)			
	Air fight over SIDI BARRANI.		2 troop-carrying planes shot down.	
17—8—42 (Monday).				
	BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY :—				
	No air activity.			
NIGHT :—				
	MIDLANDS.			
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes)			
	MALTA.			
	FAR EAST.			
	No information available.			

SIDE LIGHTS.

A GOONDA WEEK. Mischief is afoot. Politics have unleashed the forces of hooliganism. Never before within living memory had been witnessed such widespread lawlessness in this country. The week had proved a field day for rowdies and rioters. A scorched earth damage, worse than any that military necessity could have dictated has been perpetrated in the name of patriotism. There have been wanton and reckless destruction of property, looting, burning of public buildings and offices, severance of telephone and telegraph systems, and tampering with the permanent way, in short, black-mail and mob-rule.

There can be only one answer to all this. It is to put down the disorder with a firm and stern hand. It is the duty of both the Government and the public. It calls for the support and co-operation of all right-minded men who wish themselves, their homes and their country well.

If the Government, so far, have taken preventive but not punitive measures, it is not because there are no stronger weapons in the armoury. The national work—the war effort is the supreme consideration of the moment; nothing will be permitted to thwart it or divert attention from it.

Let us hope that the worst is over and the corner has been turned.

INDIA's sorrow is Axis delight. Our enemies are gloating over the disturbance and claiming it for a major Axis victory. Loot and arson—what criminal insanity when the enemy is knocking at the gate—what perversity and stupidity !

THE RUSSIAN SITUATION. A little more than three weeks ago Oliver Lyttleton, Minister of Production uttered the warning that the next 80 days, would prove a critical period and the *Times*, in an article published on the 14th, referring to the warning has added that the great climax of the war may be reached before the winter. The immediate outlook is sombre and in a sense disappointing though confidence in a final victory is as strong as ever. The recent German advances in the southern sector of the Russian front are the disconcerting cause. MAIKOP and KRASNODAR have fallen and the enemy has reached the western bank of the Don bend. Churchill's visit to CAIRO, his succesful conferences with Stalin in MOSCOW, Wavell's presence in the Russian capital, Auchinleck's transfer, the combined heavy incursion into the Dieppe area, a raid, as the Allies put it, an invasion as the enemy fears it, and rumours of a new Syrian, Persian or Caspian front reveal a state of flux and transition in Allied strategy and give grounds for fresh hopes of a brighter turn in the Allied cause.

The late German Chancellor, Bismarck—strategist and diplomat has left a dying testament for the future rulers of his country. In it he has written, 'GERMANY, in the interests of her people, must always and in every way injure RUSSIA but never enter into open conflict with her, as the most decisive of victories of the German armies in the east are bound to be drowned in the endless expanses of RUSSIA and would therefore in the final result afford no benefit to the German people'.

This is the writing of history, the writing on the wall which Hitler may read in the hour of his present 'Victory.' The 'brilliant and decisive victories' of the German Army in the East in 1915 led to a Russian retreat but brought no strategic advantage to GERMANY. Again the Russian retreat of 1918 to the Volga was followed immediately by the German collapse. After the flow, the ebb.

Hitler is now a disillusioned man. What is going on in RUSSIA at present is not a Battle of Annihilation, of which Hitler has lost all hopes; the Russian Army, he now knows, can never be destroyed. He is attempting a much smaller thing to-day, which is to interrupt the supplies and the communications to these Armies. He has snatched, for the time being, some of RUSSIA's wheat and oil supplies but MOSCOW and the Red Armies have other routes open, by which they will communicate with the Allied world, which is bringing enormous quantities of munitions and food to help RUSSIA with.

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AIR-WAR—PLAN AND PRIORITY. Those that peruse news of R. A. F. raids over North-west EUROPE may be bewildered by the seemingly hap-hazard manner in which targets are chosen for attack from day to day and from week to week. The clue however is in a definite scheme of objectives carefully selected by the Air Command in consultation with the Army and the Navy Chiefs.

In 1940 (summer and autumn) the supreme need was to prevent an 'Invasion' of BRITAIN and the so-called 'Invasion bases'—ANTWERP, OSTEND, FLUSHING, ZEEBRUGGE, DUNKIRK, CALAIS, BOLOUGNE, ROTTERDAM, YMMIDEN, LE HAVRE, CHERBOURG and BREST were the principal objectives. By these attacks, the barges and transports that the enemy had assembled for an invasion of ENGLAND were destroyed by a third, and stores and ammunition by two thirds—Result—the 'Invasion' scheme was dropped.

In 1941 the target was the North German Sea board—BREMEN, WILHELMSHAVEN, KIEL, VEGESACK, HAMBURG, BREMERHAVEN, EMDEN, ROSTOCK and STETTIN—ports from which supplies were being transhipped to German bases in FINLAND, ESTONIA and LATVIA—Result—LENINGRAD was saved.

In 1942, the U-boat is the Bull's eye—both where it is built and where it lurks. The R. A. F. targets are therefore U-boat bases like ST. NAZAIRE, BREST, CHERBOURG and LE HAVRE; U-boat construction yards like FLENSBURG, VEGESACK, HAMBURG, EMDEN, BREMEN and WILHELMSHAVEN and U-boat Diesel engine works at AUGSBURG and MANNHEIM. About 40% of the targets were selected at the instance of the Admiralty—Result—the percentage of losses due to U-boat attacks is continually on the decrease.

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THE BATTLE OF PRODUCTION. President Roosevelt recently stated, 'Great Progress has been made in the Battle of Production but in terms of what will be required for the defeat of our enemies we have only just begun to get into our stride'. The U.S. War Information Office has announced that AMERICA is 'no more than ankle-deep in the war' and Admiral Leahy, the President's new Chief of Staff has added, 'The War will be toughest, hardest, and most merciless we have ever fought.'

American ship-building is forging ahead, with 71 merchant ships of 790,000 tons built for July and 195 ships totalling 2,000,000 tons for the 3 months preceding July. But in tanks, planes and artillery, the production fell behind Schedule in June owing partly to shortage of raw materials and partly to imperfect mobilisation of labour. Mr. Donald Nelson is arranging to solve the first problem by restricting raw materials for civilian use. The American will hereafter forgo many of his usual 'necessities'. To secure labour President Roosevelt has instituted a civilian decoration for notable war production records.

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BATTLE OF FINANCE. Mr. Henry Morganthau, Secretary of the U. S. Treasury asking for an increase of taxes by about 2,400 million dollars, which will bring up the total to 8,700 million dollars states 'Our acceptance of sacrifice on the Home Front is the yard-stick of our determination to win the War. This kind of War Tax Bill can be as decisive as a Battle.'

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PIP-SQUEAK. JAPAN is industrially a creation of U. S. As the Magazine *Life* says, JAPAN before the war was 'an industrial pip-squeak besides U. S.—a parasite created and supported by the machines and materials of U. S.' For the duration of the war JAPAN will get no iron, oil, copper, ferrous alloys, machinery, aluminium, lead, mercury, manganese, phosphorus, chrome, and nickel. Even if she got other supplies from her newly occupied countries, such as oil and bauxite from the EAST INDIES, chrome and iron from the PHILIPPINES and rubber and tin from MALAYA, she has neither factories nor technicians to process and use the raw materials.

THE BATTLE OF COMMUNICATIONS. We have already had occasion to refer to the U. S.—ALASKA Railway. Great progress is reported in the construction of this railway on which work was begun in March last. It will run over 1,200 miles from Fort St. John in British COLUMBIA to ALASKA, skirting the Rocky mountains. American aid could thus be moved across the Behring Strait into N. E. RUSSIA. One day it may become the highway for a counter-attack on JAPAN itself.

Pan-American Roads are now being built, to take over coastal traffic, now seriously affected by the U-Boat. Six of the American republics—GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA and PANAMA have joined up with U. S. in the scheme.

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THE PACIFIC SEA-WAYS. We have not much news of the battles now in progress in North and South Pacific in the Far East, that is, in the ALEUTIANS and the SOLOMONS; but there is no doubt that they are primarily part of the Battle for the Communications. The ALEUTIANS stand across the American communications to ASIA via BEHRING; the SOLOMONS menace Allied communications between AMERICA on one side and AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, NEW HEBRIDES, NEW CALEDONIA and SAMOA on the other.

Landing originally in KISKA in the north and at BOUGAINVILLE in the south the Japanese had gradually spread themselves out in these areas and strengthened their position by building aerodromes. They had also connected these out-posts with other interior islands by means of interlocking naval and air bases, thus forming a screen behind which they are now able to move freely from one end of the Pacific to the other.

It is on the task of wresting these terminal positions from the enemy that the Allies are now engaged. U. S. forces have for the first time changed to the offensive, which shows their strength has now been sufficiently augmented. The operations are amphibious, or rather three-dimensioned. American marines regarded as crack units are engaged.

In the South Pacific, a determined attempt is being made to breach the enemy's protective ring at the SOLOMONS. The Allied attack is concentrated in the vicinity of TULAGI which lies in the centre of the SOLOMON group between GUADELCANAR and MALAITA Islands in what is known as Indispensable Strait. Three of the small islands off TULAGI have been landed in the face of fierce enemy resistance and the occupied positions are being consolidated. Simultaneously, neighbouring enemy areas in NEW GUINEA and NEW BRITAIN are, being pounded.

Though losses have been inevitably severe on both sides, the present operations are highly important. If they should succeed the tide would have turned, marking the end of Japanese aggression in the Pacific and the beginning of the recovery of lost possessions for the Allies. To INDIA also the Battle of the Pacific Communications is important: the Japanese menace to the Indian Ocean will recede with every blow struck for freedom at the northern and southern ends of the Pacific. The enemy, as recently revealed by Tojo, is short of shipping and must conserve all he has left to save himself in his home waters.

CHINESE OPERATIONS. Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek has been on the offensive for some time in the province of KIANGSI in South-East CHINA, concentrating on LINCHWAN at the confluence of the Fu and the Kan. Having occupied strategic heights commanding the city he is harassing Japanese transports which bring reinforcements over the two rivers. LINCHWAN is about 70 miles sout-east of NANCHANG, the capital of the province and is also on the railway to NANKING and SHANGHAI. Thus the struggle is incidentally for the railway also which the Japanese badly want for an overland route for war materials for their south-eastern campaign.

The Japanese have made some progress in a segment of the maritime provinces of CHEKIANG, FUKIEN and CHIANGSI but the Chinese have converged at a point where the provinces meet and are resisting the enemy's infiltration into the TUNGSTEN areas. Round about WENCHOW the Japanese who are being hard pressed are unable either to retreat or get reinforcements.

In this struggle the Chinese are greatly helped by the American Air Force. Sometime ago TOKYO stated that CHINA had been isolated and cut off from aid. Now it admits 'the arrival of U. S. supplies of aircraft through INDIA or elsewhere'.

Further indications of Allied help to CHINA are found in the spontaneous contributions to 'the United Aid to China Fund', made both by the people and the authorities of BRITAIN, His Majesty the King leading with a subscription of £ 1,000, and another contribution of £ 20,000 for wounded Chinese soldiers from the IOWA STATE. The latter fund was sent to Madame Chiang with the words, 'It is not a gift. It is a small advance on an unpayable obligation.'

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WAFFEN-S. S. is the name of a new Police force that Hitler has formed under Himmler out of the most fanatical elements of the youth organisations, in order to terrorise both the Home Front and the occupied countries. Started only in the middle of last year it has already seen service in POLAND HOLLAND, BELGIUM, FRANCE, BALKANS and RUSSIA. Its recent arrival in PARIS is connected with the fear of a French rising in the event of an Allied invasion. De Brinon announced on August 5 that 'necessary measures' would be taken in the case of any 'incrédible hostility' and Laval has reinforced his Legion Tricolore by incorporation with the Waffen-S. S.

Secret German documents recently seized in LIBYA and RUSSIA show that it is a special Army of Privilege. It is part of the S. S. which was militarised in 1933 as a protection to the Nazi party. Another branch of the S. S. is the Liberstandarte or Hitler's Body Guard. The Waffen S. S. controls the Civil Service and the A. R. P. at home. Verfuegung-struppe (Unit for Special Disposal) to which Rommel belongs is an 'Army of Political soldiers'; S. S. Totenkopf vertaende (Death's head units) includes the Gestapo and the Armies of Occupation. The Sicherheitsdienst possesses the largest name index in the world and reports on 'morale' and 'internal enemies'.

By such a system of terrorisation does Hitler hope to succeed. But simultaneously all EUROPE is uniting and rising against him. On July 30 the first anniversary of the Polish-Soviet Union was celebrated. On August 5

came the anniversary of the YUGO-SLAV Pact and on the same day BRITAIN signed a new Pact with CZECHOSLOVAKIA cancelling the MUNICH Agreement.

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SOUTHWARD HO. Recently the TOKYO Radio told the Japanese, 'Southward Ho! The South seas await you. It is yours to develope these regions and establish a Japanese National Front'. It is now evident that the front which is being thus vigorously formed is an exploitation front supported by the military. In the PHILIPPINES 120,000 acres of hemp fields are being cultivated under Japanese military control, that is, at the point of the bayonet. In SIAM the factories are supervised by the Japanese military. In BURMA the supreme power is vested in a Japanese Commander-in-Chief. SUMATRA which is to become a treasure-house of the Co-prosperity Sphere is to be exploited by an Association which will send out 100,000 Japanese families under military protection. BORNEO and MALAYA are being similarly Japanised.

On July 7 General Tojo declared, 'We now have the right to send emigrants to any part of the occupied regions'.

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WESTWARD HO. Exploitation for the South and propaganda for the West would seem to be the Japanese plan of action. A stream of propaganda is flooding the Near and Middle East just at present, and is taking a particularly vicious form under the inspiration of Itakaki Seishere one of the leaders of the Young Officers Ceique in JAPAN. Recently he declared, 'The approach to the Muslim world through the adoption of a strong religious, political and economic policy is imperative if JAPAN wants to carry out her plan of hegemony in East ASIA.

Let INDIA and the East generally note the word 'hegemony' and be warned. The Nippon ambition is no less. Hegemony is enslavement.

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THE STRUGGLE FOR MAN-POWER IN NORTH CHINA. "The Chinese army and people in North China are to-day fighting not only to co-ordinate the nation's resistance as a whole but to preserve manpower from being seized by the enemy. During the past five years the Japanese have collected 5,000,000 Chinese labourers in North China and sent them to the north-eastern provinces and Japan, where a shortage of man-power is acute as a result of the prolonged war. Facing constant atrocities during the course of the enemy's labour hunting, the northern Chinese have organised themselves for self-protection in co-operation with armed forces behind Japanese lines.

The puppet Hsin Min Labour Association has set 2,000,000 as the goal for this year's labour conscription in North China. One and a half million of them will be sent to Manchuria, 150,000 to Inner Mongolia, and 100,000 to Japan. The rest will work in North China. Early last February Japanese troops arrested more then 10,000 able-bodied men in south-eastern Shansi. They were later carried away in trucks to unknown places. Orders have been given to Shangtung puppets to send 10 labourers from each village in the province for "*training*". Shansi puppets are struggling for the conscription

of 120,000 workers before the end of this year. In March alone, according to an announcement made by the Japanese Labour Association in North China, 158,000 Chinese labourers went to Manchuria.

The Japanese have many methods of getting labourers in North China. One is arrest. Any person considered "*suspicious*" is taken away. Any gathering is likely to be surrounded by Japanese troops and young men rounded up and sent to Manchuria to participate in "*reconstruction work*". During the enemy's "*mopping-up*" campaigns in Hopei, Shantung and Shansi provinces, one method is to burn down village after village. People in these devastated areas are herded together into the enemy's work gang. To cope with the situation, Chinese authorities are organizing those who are unable to leave their native places on one hand, and helping others to get to safer areas. Such refugees will be settled on farms or put to work in small scale industries".

CHARLES DE GAULLE.

SOLDIER, SCHOLAR AND PATRIOT.

But time marches, rather remorselessly, on; and there is a tendency, in this age of a journalistic concentration on the moment, to forget the people who are not in the immediate limelight. There are the Czechs, who wanted to make a stand and were decently deterred fron doing so. There are the Poles, who made the first stand, were tanked and bombed to pieces, and are reassembling everywhere with their old anthem on their lips which says that Poland will never die so long as one Pole still lives. There are the Greeks, who whacked the Italian aggressors, were only beaten when the Germans walked in, and have troops fighting in Libya at this moment. There are the Yugoslavs, who, with their mountainous country overrun, still keep up a great guerilla tantalising of the occupying "Herrenvolk". There are the Dutch, the Belgians, the Norwegians, all of whom resisted to the best of their ability. But there are also the French.

Here is General de Gaulle; who is France. Arm chair people here have criticised the French because they did not arm properly and trusted too much in a Maginot Line which was not sufficiently extended. It is all true; General de Gaulle wrote a text-book about mechanised warfare of which nobody but the Germans took any notice. It is also true that British Governments, with the parties behind them clamouring for "social services", anti-vaccination, nationalisation of the land and whatever else (and the cranks, with the world on a razor-edge, are still producing their Tappertit resolutions), allowed the Huns to laugh at the Treaty of Versailles, and rearm under our noses, and do thing after thing while we still sat supine. The French were beaten in the field, and beaten by weapons which the young de Gaulle had eagerly demanded. The tanks and dive-bombers, pitiless against roads choked with soldiery and refugees, brought France to a standstill And, the well-meaning and better-than-most Prime Minister, Paul Reynaud, was influenced at the last moment by a sinister woman and threw up the sponge—when he might have gone overseas, and kept the Navy, and kept the colonies, and saved the Allies of France all the painful trouble of Oran, of Syria and of Madagascar.

De Gaulle, a scholar-soldier, of the type which Saint-Cyr plentifully produces—not a politician, but a passionate soldier and civilized man, who might be caught, in his leisure moments, reading Vergil, Pascal or Blaise de Moulue—could not stand it. He had been an intermediary between the determined Mr. Churchill and the flickering French Government; and, at the last moment, he escaped to England with a suit-case, a few pairs of trousers, and no followers at all, and booked a bedroom in a hotel near Victoria.

From that everything has been built up. Daily the boys, in fishing-boats across the Channel, or on foot across Spain, escape to join him. He is still unpolitical and still unambitious; when he has done his job he will retire. He is a reticent man. His family used to say, jokingly, that he was brought up in the ice-box. But there is a burning zeal within him, a love of the eternal France, a hatred of the barbarian, an unquenchable sense of honour, and the pledged word. A chevalier he is without fear and without reproach and a military thinker who despairingly wrote books and memoranda showing his Government and the world how the next war—namely this war—was bound to be waged.

GESTAPO TERROR IN OCCUPIED EUROPE

LEGACY OF FEAR AND HATRED.

by

William Baliss (In a recent B. B. C. talk).

Let me try to tell you what it means to live in a country where terror and fear stalk the streets, and a man's life is no longer his own. It means that people are afraid of their own shadows. Their spirit is numbed by a kind of paralysing fear that makes life a mere existence without hope, or brightness.

When I was in Prague the people kept their window shutters and blinds tightly drawn, even in the afternoon. Friends I had known for years were afraid to meet or talk with me. I did not dare to enquire about missing persons because even family members do not tell one another anything that might be extracted by Gestapo torture. The few persons who were willing to talk had nothing to say. Fear dominates all their thinking, and with fear there is a black hatred that obscures everything else.

In a Polish town where the stench of decaying human flesh is almost unbearable, there was an atmosphere of living death. The people greeted one another only with their eyes. To have spoken a single word would have given the Nazi police reason for interfering. Fear filled the streets and empty cafés, and during the two days I remained there, I was not able to talk with a single Pole.

THE REACTION.

In Vienna, the women in the endless food queues do not speak to one another. The business men keep their office phones covered with a tea-cosy,

for they are afraid the Gestapo might tap it and listen in on their office conversation. In Amsterdam it was the same.

Europe stinks of hate and fear, a Dutch professor remarked to me. He was right—you can actually smell it.

To-day, with the shooting of the Gestapo butcher Heydrich and other "New Order" leaders, we see that the long night of terror is beginning to have its inevitable consequences. The Germans have made life cheap in Europe; they have reduced it to the level where many people do not think it is worth living. You often hear Poles and Czechs, and even Germans, say that the most popular places in Europe to-day are the cemeteries. They say that the lucky Pole or Czech is a dead one; but doubly lucky is the one who has first accounted for a German. And that is the reason why assassins now wait for the Heydrichs and Himmlers and Hitlers of Europe.

GERMANY ON THE DEFENSIVE.

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by

Dr. Edward Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, in the " Manchester Guardian "

Since 1939 the war has in one respect followed the same course as that in 1914–18: after a certain period of hesitation and uncertainty with regard to the side which was destined to be victorious, **a stage has been reached at which there is no longer any question whether we will win, but only when we will win.**

The majority of important political and military figures in the Allied camp to-day take the view that, although the next six months will not see the war finished, it will see it decided. I myself think along the same lines.

Just as in the spring of 1941 Hitler was obliged to seek to force victory unconditionally, or at least a favourable peace, by an attack on Russia since otherwise he would have found himself a year later confronted with a possible simultaneous and crushing offensive both in the west and in the east, so to-day he is under the same necessity—so as to anticipate the creation of a second western front by the Allies— of conducting a decisive offensive in the east.

HITLER'S PROBLEM.

He must either by securing victory on this front force some sort of peace in good time, or at least get hold of Caucasian oil and thus render possible the continuation of the war, thereby retaining the possibility of concluding some sort of peace in which he would not be altogether a defeated party. If he does not succeed in doing this, he will be confronted with the threat of a decisive Allied offensive on both fronts before much time has passed, and thus with inescapable exhaustion and inevitable collapse. If his offensive does not succeed, the consequence can only be a rapid decline in the power of the Axis since it is the last great effort of which Germany is now capable.

After an unsuccessful offensive of this order nothing will be left to Germany but to turn to an exclusively defensive war, and this on two fronts. And after this has continued, after a certain time the fall of Germany will again be inevitable as it was in 1918.

DIAGNOSIS CONFIRMED.

All reports which I receive from Germany seem to me to confirm this diagnosis. I know positively that the serious dispute between Hitler and his Generals which broke out at the beginning of December, 1941, with regard to the action to be taken on the Eastern Front at a moment when the defeat of Germany before Moscow was evident to everyone, had its origin, as far as the latter were concerned, in their conviction that the war was already lost for Germany from the military point of view. From public admissions of Hitler and Goering in their last two speeches containing threats regarding what would happen to Germany if the war were lost, **it is quite clear that this realisation—that the war cannot be won in military terms—has been reached not only by the German Generals but by all important Nazi leaders.**

1918 PARALLEL.

All reports which we receive regarding the state of affairs within Germany confirm this view. And from it I myself draw the following conclusion: the Germany of to-day has approximately reached the condition in which she was in the spring of 1918, and her political and military leaders, whether they decide to conduct the so-called spring offensive or not, are deliberately preparing to effect a transition on the military front in a short time to come—perhaps after their last attempt at an offensive in the east—to an exclusively defensive war; while within the state and in the occupied countries they are proceeding on the interior front to resort to extensive measures against a revolutionary collapse of the Army and the German war machine similar to that which took place in November, 1918. **In saying this, however, I do not mean that 1942 will be the last year of the war. The breaking-up of Germany may continue for several months in 1943.**

AMERICANS' FIGHT FOR CHINA.

THE STORY OF THE "FLYING TIGERS"

by

C. H. Lowe (A talk broadcast from Calcutta).

If you took a trip to Free China to-day you would probably see in the streets of Kunming and Chungking a good few smartly uniformed men whom the Chinese people call Mei Kuo Jon, or citizens from the Land of Beauty, and for whom the Chinese have developed a special liking and admiration. You would find these young well-built men friendly, cheerful and extraordinarily efficient, and if you stayed in China for any length of time you would surely hear about the wonderful work they have been doing within the ast year.

About two weeks ago the Japanese newscasts stated that these men from the Land of Beauty were quitting China, and predicted jubilantly that henceforth Japan would have one obstacle less in her effort to conquer China. But contrary to what Tokyo had hoped for, the American Volunteer Group, now merged into the United States Army Air Corps, are not going home. The majority of the members of the A. V. G., as the Group is known in China, are remaining to continue the fight against Japan. Brigadier General C. L. Chennault declared in Chungking on July 4 that he and his men would return to America only when they had defeated Japan.

The American Volunteer Group was formed in August, 1941, by order of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. Aftor a period of training in Burma, the A. V. G. started combat activities in China and south-eastern Asia towards the close of 1941.

The A. V. G. have never numbered more than 350, but each man, pilot or ground personnel, was a trained specialist. Because of the fine work they have done during the last few months, they have established a reputation as "Flying Tigers".

Since the first battle on December 20, 1941, the A. V. G. have shot down in aerial combat or burned on the ground in strafing attacks no less than 284 Japanese planes—a remarkable achievement when compared with the larger numbers of aircraft the Japanese have invariably employed. In the first battle on December 20, near Kunming, the A. V. G. intercepted seven enemy bombers, shot down four confirmed.

On December 23, when the Japanese air force struck at Rangoon, the Third Squadron of the A. V. G. shot down 12 bombers. On Christmas day, when the Japanese radio broadcast from Saigon that Rangoon would be heavily bombed, the A. V. G. pilots, ever ready to give the enemy a hot aud hearty welcome, shot down a total of 23 Japanese aircraft confirmed and chased the remainder of the Japanese air fleet across the Gulf of Martaban, shooting many more bombers down in the Gulf.

Partly because of the work done by the A. V. G. the Japanese had to stop open daylight bombing of Rangoon for a time. In December and January, the A. V. G., sometimes in collaboration with the Royal Air Force, raided and harassed several Japanese aerodromes in Thailand and Indo-China.

A review of the monthly returns recorded by the A. V G. the last few months would show what heavy blows they have inflicted upon the enemy:—

In January, the A. V. G. destroyed a total of 77 Japanese planes confirmed; in February, the Group shot down or burned on the ground a total of 53 enemy planes; in March, the "Flying Tigers" accounted for 34 enemy aircraft; in April, the American Volunteers destroyed 38 Japanese planes; in May, when the Japanese had developed a belated caution, only 26 of their planes were destroyed by the A. V. G.

All the men in the A. V. G. have done more than they were originally expected to. At least seven A. V. G. pilots have each shot down or destroyed on the ground 10 or more enemy aircraft. Squadron Leader R. H. Neale of Iowa had the highest score, having brought down 16 Japanese planes. Three others (Squadron Leader D. L. Hill of Texas, Flight Leader W. N. Reid of Iowa and Flight Leader W. D. McGarry of Los Angeles) have each destroyed 11 Japanese planes.

Eight A. V. G. pilots, who have performed outstanding combat work in the defence of Rangoon, have been recommended by the British Government for the Distinguished Flying Cross, while thirty-three of them have already been decorated by the Chinese Government for outstanding bravery and combat achievements.

Besides, several crew chiefs have been decorated by the Chinese Government for outstanding bravery and conduct while under fire. One crew chief, named Harry E. Fox, has been recommended to the British Government for the Order of the British Empire by the Air Officer Commanding the Royal Air Force in Burma.

The A. V. G. have not confined their activities to aerial combat ; hazardous bombing missions and strafing of enemy aerodromes and fortified positions have occupied a good deal of their time. For instance, on March 24 ten A. V. G. planes raided the Japanese aerodrome at Chingmai in Thailand, and when the "Flying Tigers" departed they left the aerodrome a shambles, with 15 huge fires burning.

In May, when the Japanese broke through the Chinese lines and made a heavy assault from Lashio to break across the Salween River and attempted to capture Paoshon in Western Yunnan, the A. V. G. made a timely contribution and helped the Chinese forces in stopping the sudden Japanese drive.

Because of constant bombing and strafing attacks the Japanese mechanised columns were broken up, and the Chinese troops were given a chance to consolidate their positions on the Salween front. Between May 4 and May 22, the A. V. G. sent out two or three missions a day to bomb and strafe the enemy on the Burma-China border.

Thus far the A. V. G. have covered a fairly wide area in their operations, including Burma, Indo-China, Thailand and many parts of eastern and central China. Considering the extensive territory the A. V. G. have had to protect or work in, and bearing in mind the fact that the Japanese have been able to maintain air superiority since the outbreak of Pacific hostilities, the A. V. G. have done wonderfully well.

AN ARMY WITHOUT MACHINES.

SUCCESSFUL JAPANESE METHODS IN BURMA.

Parliamentary demands for the fullest information about the campaign in Burma are likely to be met in due course, and details of the campaign will show that the Japanese strategic conceptions were put into effect by somewhat elementary military tactics. Japanese successes in their land operations in the Far East can be attributed in no small measure to their skill in using simple—almost old-fashioned—methods of warfare.

In a war in which mechanization is in vogue the Japanese may be said to have produced a "secret weapon" by doing without the machine. This generalization is particularly true of the land operations, although aircraft have been skilfully used by the enemy. Hitler's highly mechanized hordes swept across

Europe carried along by sheer weight of machinery and under the control of a massive organization which linked the most forward tank with military headquarters in Berlin; **headquarters in Tokyo sent forth their men lightly equipped and with no cumbrous administrative organization behind them, in accordance with a thoroughly thought-out plan of cross-country warfare which placed the initiative on the individual officers and soldiers.**

The Japanese have proved that a highly disciplined and specially trained army can achieve great results with a light scale of equipment and with little or no motor transport. By insidious infiltration the enemy threaded his way past defended positions in Malaya, Burma, and elsewhere, for he knew that our forces, because of their dependence on mechanized transport, must inevitably operate in the neighbourhood of roads. For themselves, when transport became necessary, the Japanese used all the local transport they could seize. The toughness of the individual soldier made him readily adaptable to his circumstances. **He virtually lived on the country he was traversing, and his simple requirements in food enabled the Japanese fighting forces as a whole to dispense with elaborate commissariat arrangements.**

PATTERN OF FIGHTING IN EGYPT.

TRENCH WARFARE OF LAST WAR RECALLED.

by

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Douglas Brownrigg.

Once again we must confine the greater part of our attention to the combined Russo-British front, for that is where the next most decisive results may be looked for. **In the southern part of this front—in Egypt—there is a strange spectacle of the commencement of something very much resembling the trench warfare of the last Great War.** It has resulted from exactly the same causes, although it is, of course, on a much smaller scale. In the last war after a very mobile period in 1914, when the battle swayed to and fro from Belgium to the Marne, both combatants went to the ground on a front of 400 miles with their flanks resting on two important obstacles—Switzerland and the sea. Now in Egypt—after 18 months of intense and restless mobility to and fro around the Libyan desert—we see exactly the same thing occurring when similar conditions have supervened.

In Egypt each side now has one flank on the sea and the other on the Qattara depression. Each side has weapons (instead of the cavalry of 1914, tanks and armoured cars of 1942) which have previously kept the battle moving. Each side has now developed a new technique to overcome temporarily the penetrating effect of weapons of mobility (in 1914 it was the machine-gun; in 1942 it is the anti-tank gun and the dive-bomber). Thus we see that, when the flanks of two fairly equally matched opponents are secure, different methods have to be adopted from those which can be successfully employed when there is a flank to be exploited.

Naturally each side in Egypt wishes to break the period of stagnation. Rommel only narrowly failed to present his master with a glittering prize.

The visit of Mussolini to North Africa is a clear indication that the capture of Alexandria was expected in Italian circles, and we have no reason to doubt that Hitler expected it too. It is true that at the moment Rommel is compelling us to keep a larger army and air force tied up in Western Egypt than we wish. He has in fact a very good example of the use of a detachment whose value is in proportion to the amount of hostile strength which it prevents from taking part in more important operations.

But it is equally true that Hitler wants the Suez Canal and will go on reinforcing Rommel to the utmost up to the limit of not weakening what at present is the main thrust—by Von Bock over the crossings of the Don.

Obviously General Auchinleck has appreciated the situation, and this accounts for his deliberate attacks all along the line in the hope of effecting a break-in which he can subsequently convert into a break-through.

ARAB FORTUNES AND FEARS.

LESSONS OF THE SYRIAN OCCUPATION.

(*London Times, April 15, 1942.*)

FORTUNATE AND COMFORTABLE.

A journey through Syria and Lebanon to-day is a journey through fortunate lands. Although a theatre of war, they are going about their business in conditions of peace and with a sense of security lent by distance from actual battlefields. Money is being made. There is work for all. The British keep them supplied with their daily bread and a good deal more. That does not mean that they have everything they had in times of peace; but by war-time standards they are comfortable, and by comparison with German-occupied Europe these are promised lands.

FEARS AND HOPES.

Their only real anxiety is that the present happy state of things may not endure indefinitely. A German attempt to reach out across the Middle East towards their Japanese allies is regarded as a strong possibility. It is speculated that the German spring offensive may take more than one direction. German propaganda for Arabs, which has been greatly intensified since Japan entered the war, does its best to encourage such ideas. There is a new and important factor which German propaganda finds it hard to overcome. That is the mauling which the German army has received in Russia. That factor has had important reactions. Among the Lebanese one notes the tendency to regard an allied victory as a probability instead of, as formerly, a possibility. The Syrian Moslem population has become less confident of a German victory. All are inclined to think that the Russian

situation would not permit the Germans to launch a large operation in the Middle East in the near future. Some uneasiness has been caused again by the German recovery in Libya and the continuing Japanese successes. But, broadly speaking, a more favourable view is still taken of the allied position in the Middle East than was the case a few months ago. That, again, is reflected in the more friendly and co-operative attitude of the people generally towards the local Syrian and Lebanese Governments and the occupying authorities. For it is a mistake to try to sum up Moslem opinion in terms of anti-Allies and pro-Axis, or *vice versa*.

HOSTILITY TO ITALIANS.

There are anti-British and pro-German Arabs. There are pro-British and anti-German Arabs. But for the most part the Arabs are thinking only of their own particular interests, and their conduct is governed by fear of the consequences which might ensue from being too friendly with the belligerent which loses the war. If they are definitely hostile to any nation it is Italy. **News reached this country recently that Rashid Ali's and the Mufti of Jerusalem's hotel bills in Berlin were being paid by the Italian Embassy. The inference was obvious and made a poor impression upon Syrian nationalist circles.**

TOWARDS INDEPENDANCE.

What the critics—who are found mainly among political circles not called to office—say openly is that the powers of the new States are too limited, that the constitutional status of their Governments is doubtful, and that personnel is more representative of regions and confessions than of opinion. The critics are bound to admit that, at least, so far as Lebanon is concerned, the Free French have chosen the most honest Government in the country's history.

For other reasons Syrians and Lebanese are now beginning to appraise the Free French political concessions more highly. They had been suspicious that it was the Free French intention to take advantage of a war-time military occupation to impose upon the new States indefinitely-binding treaty commitments. These suspicions turned out to be ill-founded. Both Syrians and Lebanese were impressed also by the appointment of a British diplomatic representative. This is taken as an earnest of British sincerity in associating themselves with the policy of independence for Syria and Lebanon. Accordingly Syrians and Lebanese are beginning to appreciate that the Free French policy of maintaining French influence in the Levant need not prevent the development of their countries to the status of full independence when circumstances permit.

LANDS OF PLENTY.

Meanwhile, however, politics are a secondary preoccupation in the Middle East. What the Governments and occupying authorities are mainly working upon is the question of supplies. Syria and Lebanon were in a parlous economic state when the British and Free French armies entered last summer. To-day, as already indicated, they are by war-time standards lands of plenty. **It made a tremendous impression upon Syrians and Lebanese that the British, while engaged in a life-and-death struggle for their own existence, should be able to ship thousands of tons of wheat to Syria and Lebanon, whereby not only was famine averted but the food position was made fairly secure.**

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

Mistakes were made, of course. It had been hoped that by flooding the grain market and bringing prices down hoarders would be obliged to disgorge. But apparently in times of war all Syrians and Lebanese who have money to buy grain are hoarders. The market absorbed grain like a sponge; prices did not fall, and the poorer people still found it difficult to get bread. Accordingly the authorities modified their method in favour of controlled distribution. The situation now is that the grain is still in the country, but the distribution of large quantities is under the control of private persons rather than public authorities, and the price of bread is higher than one could wish.

On the other side of the balance-sheet must be set the fact that wages are rising. For the British and Free French armies have abolished unemployment. From one end of the country to the other Syrians and Lebanese have obtained work at decent rates of pay on the building of roads, railways, aerodromes, and fortifications, and it looks as though the demand for labour will soon exceed the supply.

Allowing for a maximum development of home resources, the continuance of prosperity and comparative plenty will still depend upon the ability of the Middle East supply centre to find ships to bring in substantial quantities of foodstuffs and raw materials. **That may be less easy in the future than it has been in the past; but the Middle East supply situation has a long way to deteriorate before the real pinch of war is felt.**

ALASKA HIGHWAY.

AMERICAN ARMY ENGINEERS AT WORK IN CANADA.

(*From the Canadian Correspondent of the London Times—May 27, 1942*).

The need of a military highway linking the United States with Alaska was brought into renewed prominence by the outbreak of war in the Pacific. Alaska officials were urgent in their demands for an immediate start on what they regarded as a "Burma Road", providing an overland link between the arsenals of the West Coast and the great military and naval bases of Alaska. The strategic potentialities of the territory were emphasized. Defence experts pointed out that it is closer to Japan than any other United States possession except the Philippines; that bases in Alaska are within bomber range of Japan; and that Alaska is an essential link in the aerial highway between the United States and the U. S. S. R., *via* Siberia, this route being shorter than that from San Francisco to Vladivostock *via* Siberia.

Early in March Mr. Mackenzie King announced in the Canadian House of Commons that, in pursuance of a recommendation by the Canadian-American Permanent Joint Defence Board which had been approved by the Governments of both countries, the long-projected highway was to be started at once. The objection that Canada could not afford to pay half of the cost of the required 1,500 miles, estimated at between $ 25,000,000 and $ 30,000,000, has

been removed by the generous offer of the United States Government to bear the whole cost, provided it was allowed to build the road and retain certain privileges on the Canadian sections.

The chosen route has one very vigorous critic in Mr. George Black, a former Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, who has represented the Yukon Territory at Ottawa for many years and knows the north-western corner of Canada as few men do. On March 7 he informed the Commons that the route selected ran for the most part over tundra and muskeg, the sort of terrain which presented the greatest difficulties and involved the highest expenditures. But the die has been cast and no time has been lost in setting to work engineering units of the American Army, which will undertake the preliminary construction work. The general supervision of the enterprise has been entrusted to Colonel William M. Hoge, an engineer from Missouri with a distinguished record in the American Army. He has already arrived with a substantial contingent of military engineers at Dawson Creek, where they are engaged in establishing the southernmost base of operations.

The first aim is to get a considerable working force and its essential equipment into Fort Nelson. Parties have already left for this destination. Simultaneously there is being established at Whitehorse, on the Yukon railway, another base to which supplies can be conveyed by sea and rail, and from it survey and construction crews will work both in a northerly and southerly direction.

Once the route of the highway has been staked out, the army engineers will build a pioneer road, which will be "passable but not much else." When this has been completed the job will be turned over to the Public Roads Administration of the United States, which will proceed to build a standard 24 ft. highway with crushed rock as its basis. Estimates of the time required for the completion of the 1,500 miles run between 18 and 24 months, but, in view of the topographical and engineering difficulties to be surmounted, the higher figure may be exceeded.

DETROIT TO MANCHUKUO.

The new highway when completed will provide a means of speedy overland transport of supplies to Alaska. If Japan cannot be brought to her knees within that period, Alaska may have to be used as a base of operations for major offensives against her, and the advantage of access to this region by a direct land route is obvious. But a vista of more ambitious possibilities will be opened up by the highway. The Bering Straits, which separate Alaska from Asia, are only 56 miles wide at their narrowest point, and if the United Nations recovered command of the sea in the Pacific a ferry system which would carry supplies across the straits to Asia could be founded.

Mr. Benton Mackaye, writing in the *New Republic*, has outlined the possibility of a transportation route linking Edmonton with Irkutsk, on the Trans-Siberian Railway. He calculates that by it only 8,000 miles would separate munitions plants in places like Detroit, in the heart of the United States, from a fighting front on the frontiers of Manchukuo. Then from Irkutsk supplies destined for China could be transported to Alma Ata, on the Turksib railway, from which they could be trucked to Chungking. Such a route, despite the detour round Mongolia, would be roughly 5,000 miles shorter than that to Central China *via* Capetown, Persia, and Alma Ata. With the closing of the Burma Road this now remains the only channel through which supplies from the British Commonwealth and the United States can reach the Chinese armies.

THE AVRO LANCASTER. BRITAIN'S NEW BOMBER. WORLD'S BIGGEST AND FASTEST.

The world's biggest and fastest bomber—the Avro Lancaster—the newest addition to Britain's powerful four-engined fleet, can carry eight tons of bombs.

It is the second of the British four-engined bombers known to have this bomb-carrying capacity, the other being Short Stirling. Both have a maximum speed of about 300 miles per hour.

The Lancaster has been on operational duties for several months. It was first officially mentioned in action in April in the famous day-light attack on Augsburg, involving a flight of over 1,000 miles over enemy territory.

Several squadrons last month made the longest day-light flight of the war—1,750 miles to smash U-boat yards at Danzig. A range of 3,000 miles has made these flights well within the aircraft's capabilities.

Its weight is 30 tons, wing-span 102 feet, length 70 and height 20 feet. It has four Rolls Royce Merlin engines. It is fitted with 10 guns making it a tough proposition for fighters. Manoeuvrability and speed have made it one of the R. A. F.'s favourites.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

'KITTYHAWK'.

Among the fighter aircraft which have been 'downing' Japanese planes with unerring regularity is the famous American 'Kittyhawk,' which during the past two years has won renown over the battlefields of Libya, China, and Burma.

The 'Kittyhawk' is one of the latest of the Long Hawk family of airplanes designed and produced by the Curtiss Company in the United States. They began many years ago with the first Curtiss pursuit biplane which was christened the Curtiss 'Hawk.'

This was steadily developed and from it emerged a low-wing monoplane which rapidly made a name as the 'Mohawk'. With the development of the Allison engine, the Curtiss Company brought out the first P—40 popularly known as the 'Tomahawk.' By 1940 this type was in mass production.

THE "WAR HAWK."

An improved 'Tomahawk' was soon on the way. Increased speed, manoeuvrability and fire power were embodied in a plane called the 'Kittyhawk', a model which has done powerful service in the hands of the American Volunteer Group on many fronts and which to-day is also operating in the defence of Australia.

The latest arrival in the Hawk family is the 'War Hawk', which is now in production. In its tests it has shown itself to be the fastest and most heavily armed fighter aircraft in the world.

MUSTANGS.

"The Americans certainly did us a good job on these Mustangs" is the opinion of R. A. F. pilots at an Army Co-operation station, where this American built plane is now in regular operational use.

The Mustangs are all-metal and speedy, being rated in the United States at 400 miles per hour, and are heavily armed. By reason of their high manoeuvrability and rapid climb, they offer a poor target to ground gunners and, in the air, are well able to look after themselves.

So far, these planes have been used principally in co-operation with the Fighter Command for low-flying attacks and ground strafing of enemy targets in German-occupied France. This activity is only practice for these Army Co-operation boys. They are anxiously awaiting the opening of a second front in Europe, when the British and Allied land forces will get to love these Mustangs as much as many a cow-puncher has loved the fiery, speedy and trustworthy little horses after which they are named.

The Flying Tigers are American boys in their twenties. Most are unmarried. They are all former combat fliers with U. S. Army, Navy and Marine Air Forces. They fight as a unit of the Chinese Air Force, and fly Curtiss P-40 fighter planes, which came to China from American factories under the U. S. Lease-Lend programme.

A. V. G.

The idea of the American Volunteer Group originated with their present commander, Brigadier General Claire L. Chennault. This retired U. S. Army Air Corps officer, veteran of four years in China as flying teacher for the Chinese Air Force, returned to the United States in the spring of 1941 to recruit American airmen for voluntary service with China. That summer the boys arrived in the Yunnan Province, nearly 200 pilots, gunners, radio operators and mechanics.

An army of 11,000,000 working men and women is now engaged in the United States exclusively in the task of supplying planes, ships, guns and tanks. Soon this number will be increased to 2,20,00,000 working around the clock.

The United States sent Great Britain more than 1,800,000,000 tons of food from the end of April, 1941, to the end of February, 1942.

All recruiting records in India were broken in the month of May when just short of 70,000 men were enlisted for all arms of the Indian Army, technical and non-technical. The previous highest figure was 60,000 in December, when Japan entered the war, while an average of 50,000 has been maintained in recent months. The comparable figure for the last war was 40,000 excluding non-combatants.

Over 10,000 technicians have been turned out under the Technical Training Scheme of the Government of India. There are now 337 training centres with a seating capacity of 35,000 and at the end of June, this year, 25,000 men were under training. The capacity of the scheme has again been stepped up and the Department of Labour aims at providing a total seating capacity of 46,000 giving an annual outturn of fifty to sixty thousand men.

The total Japanese casualties in the five years of the war in China number two and a half million, 40 per cent being killed and 60 per cent wounded. Prisoners total 29,924. Material captured includes 1,981 guns, 8,576 machine-guns, 1,192,420 rifles, and 8,841 tanks and motor vehicles. The number of Japanese aeroplanes shot down is 2,504.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST GLASS SPLINTERS.

"To provide *complete* protection against glass splinters the most effective and cheapest method is completely to remove the glass." This advice is given in Part I (Refuge Rooms) of A. R. P. Handbook No. 6 (India).

It should be noted that nothing stuck on the glass will make any material difference to the amount of glass broken by blast, nor can any simple bracing system, so far examined, be relied on to help matters. There is no question of an adhesive treatment saving the glass. The object is to prevent, or at least reduce, casualties from the violent widespread scattering of broken glass.

It is impossible to forecast which glass will or will not be broken, and likewise it is impossible to forecast whether the broken glass will fall inwards or outwards. Glass in interior partitions, doors, screens, fanlights, pictures, etc., can be as dangerous as that in external walls. If such glass does not serve any useful purpose, it should be removed and, if necessary, replaced by a non-splinter material either opaque or translucent as required.

Attention must be given to all glass in the refuge room. Even if the window is barricaded completely, the glass is still liable to be broken by blast and if a gap, no matter how small, is left above the top or round the sides of the barricade, panes, even those well below the top of the barricade, will most certainly be broken and the glass scattered violently over the interior of the room, unless precautions are taken.

The erection of a barricade may necessitate the removal of some of the glass or even a whole window frame. BUT IT IS MOST STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT ALL THE GLASS BE REMOVED and those portions above the barricade given weather protection by means of light shutters or strong canvas blinds, etc.

NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

I

"I have often heard it said lately: 'We are unarmed; what can we do? Let Government put arms in our hands and we will spring to the defence of India like one man.' Well, here is my answer to that. Were the people of Great Britain armed in June 1940? Were the people of Russia armed in June 1941? During the long agony of China have ordinary men had arms in their hands? The answer is 'No.' The mass of the people have never carried arms in any country or in any modern campaign.

"Of the elements which contribute to success in modern war, the spirit of the people is the most important. That is our responsibility, yours and mine, and that is why I invite you again to join together in building a National War Front. I do not care whether we spell this with capital letters. I do not care, in fact, what we call it. We all know what it means, a united determination transcending all racial, religious and political differences to stand up and stand together to defend the thing we have and hope to have."—*H. E. The Viceroy from A. I. R., Delhi, May 7.*

II

"A National War Front means something more than individual effort; it implies a total effort. The task of the National War Front is to track down and refute rumours and anti-war propaganda. The ordinary man must be convinced that by living his ordinary life in the ordinary way, by avoiding panic and by doing his own job he can do much to maintain confidence and by doing so help to defeat the enemy."—*Sir Maurice Hallett, Sambhal (U. P.).*

III

"The people of Britain have made many sacrifices and without any complaint. They have sacrificed sugar to the Russians, whisky to the Americans, corn to the Egyptians, railway engines to the Persians, and railings to the tank factories."—*Lord Beaverbrook, New York, April 24.*

NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

BEWARE OF JAPANESE WORDS!

THEY CLEAR THE WAY FOR JAPANESE BAYONETS.

Beware of the soft words of your enemy! Beware of his attempts to make you think he is invincible! Japanese soldiers do not want to be killed when they come to India, so they broadcast that they are our friends. They spread false news to alarm and confuse and weaken us. It is a new method of warfare. Japanese soldiers do not want to die when they attack India. They want to live—in our homes.

But die the Japan se invaders will, under the shock of our soldiers and bombs and guns, with you in the rear standing firm and giving all your help. This great country of 380,000,000 people *can never* be conquered if we so decide.

CHINA WAS NOT FOOLED.

The Chinese were not tricked by propaganda. For five years that heroic nation has fought the Japanese magnificently and will never give in. Russia was not tricked by the Nazis who attacked her even after they had signed a Treaty of friendship! Learn a lesson from China and Russia. Don't trust in Japanese words!

NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

GROW MORE LADY'S FINGERS.

Sow, plains March to August; hills, April to July. Will grow in ordinary soil, but manured soil gives best results. Sow seeds 1 foot apart in rows, with 2 feet between each row. Ready in 15 weeks. Pick while still young and tender.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

1942—

LECTURE CIX—(*Batch 1*).

August	...22, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	23, Sunday ...	Muslim Association, Pudukkottai.	5.30 p. m.
		Puvarasakudi ...	6.00 p. m.
		Venkatakulam ...	6.30 p. m.
	24, Monday ...	Tirumayyam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Melur ...	6.30 p. m.
	27, Thursday ...	Perungalur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Adanakkottai ...	6.30 p. m.
	28, Friday ...	Arimalam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilanilaikkottai ...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE CX—(*Batch 2*).

	29, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	30, Sunday ...	Tiruvappur ...	5.30 p. m.
		Kudumiyamalai ...	6.00 p. m.
		Parambur ...	6.30 p. m.
	31, Monday ...	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
		College Tamil Branch School.	10.15 a. m.
		Nachchandupatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Virachchilai ...	6.30 p. m.
September ...	1, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
		Nallur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Mandaiyur ...	6.30 p. m.
	3, Thursday ...	Panayappatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Rangiyam ...	6.30 p. m.
		Municipal Office ...	6.45 p. m.
	4, Friday	Kodumbalur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Viralimalai ...	6.30 p. m.

THE FOLLOWING PLACES WILL BE VISITED BY THE ADVERTISING PARTY OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU FROM 4 P. M. TO 5 P. M. ON THE DAYS NOTED BELOW. THE STATE BAND WILL PLAY; POSTERS WILL BE EXHIBITED; AND HAND-BILLS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AND EXPLAINED.

Saturday	...	22— 8—42	...	Ponnamaravathi.
Sunday	...	23— 8—42	...	Embal.
Monday	...	24— 8—42	...	Konnaiyur.
Tuesday	...	25— 8—42	...	Perambur.
Wednesday	...	26— 8—42	...	Rayavaram.
Thursday	...	27— 8—42	...	Kulipirai.
Friday	...	28— 8—42	...	Pappapatti.
Saturday	...	29— 8—42	...	Vettamviduthi.
Sunday	...	30— 8—42	...	Kodumbalur.
Monday	...	31— 8—42	...	Kiranur.
Tuesday	...	1— 9—42	...	Kudumiyamalai.
Wednesday	...	2— 9—42	...	Kilanilai Puduppatti.
Friday	...	4— 9—42	...	Pudukkottai.

NOTICE.

An interesting War Film
produced by the Government of India, and known as

CITIZEN FIREMEN

WILL BE SHOWN AT THE

RAJA TALKIES, PUDUKKOTTAI

for four days from 28th to 31st August, 1942.

THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU,
PUDUKKOTTAI,

recommends this film to the PUBLIC.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—22-8-42.